

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**Juan De Dios Garay Convicted at Last**—The following abstract of a report by Special Agent Albert Carter, forwarded to us by Doctor C. B. Pinkham, secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners, is interesting and instructive:

"It is with considerable satisfaction that we can report that, with the help of the Postoffice Department and United States Court, we have at last eliminated entirely from this field of activity one of the worst medical fakirs with which we have ever had to contend.

"After a trial lasting three or four days in the United States District Court of the Southern District of California, Juan de Dios Garay, one of the most notorious and clever swindlers on the Pacific Coast, has been put out of the business. He was today convicted by a jury on all six counts of an indictment charging him with using the United States mails in a scheme to defraud, and was sentenced by Judge Bledsoe to pay a fine of \$1,000 on each count (\$6,000) and to serve five years in the federal prison on McNeil's Island on each count, sentence to run concurrently.

"For years we have had trouble with this individual. He has been arrested by this office four different times since 1919, and on one occasion paid a fine of \$100. He has continually violated the Medical Practice Act, but owing to the fact that he mixed religion, mental treatments, superstition, and the sale of a medicine in bottles, it became practically impossible to convict him in the police court. Upon one occasion we subpoenaed ten of his Mexican patients as witnesses, but they were superstitious and feared his occult powers and only one appeared, and she was willing to swear that she had never seen Garay before.

"On going through Garay's place of business with a search warrant, we found many thousands of letters from all over the United States, from Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, and other foreign countries. Many of these letters had money-orders attached, in payment for treatment for various diseases or his various schemes, such as "Treatment for success in business"; "To bring back lost husband, wife, or sweetheart"; "To be successful in gambling"; "Power to read the deepest thoughts of any person"; "Power to make yourself visible or invisible"; "Secret to find any treasure"; "To communicate with any being beyond the grave," etc., etc.

"His schemes were so many and varied that he kept a complete file of customers' letters with carbon copies of his replies to each one. To those who wanted to be cured of some disease he sent from one to twelve bottles of his "Aztec Treatment," which is composed of walnut bark, sarsaparilla, rose castile, water and sugar. To win the love of a sweetheart, he sent a white powder composed of fine steel filings and some ingredient to make them burn, with instructions to divide into equal parts and burn one each night between 9 and 12 o'clock.

"Not content with his various schemes of obtaining money through occultism and superstition, Garay had some beautiful diplomas of the 'Instituto de Ciencias Ocultas—A School of Magician,' printed, and for one of these, sold to Huagieto C. Mendoza, he obtained the sum of \$85. This diploma certified to the proficiency of Mendoza in spiritism, somnambulism, magnetism, cartomancia, chiromancy, and astrology, but when asked by Judge Bledsoe what occultism is, Mendoza said he didn't know.

"After many of Garay's dupes had appealed to our office and to the City Prosecutor and District Attorney's office without being able to obtain much results, we furnished the Postoffice Inspector, Mr. Sharon, with a list of names of persons who had been swindled by Garay through the United States mails on various schemes. The United States grand jury, acting upon this information, indicted Garay, and witnesses were brought from different parts of the state."

The fact is, as all who have had experience in business of any kind know, that it is the individual who does things—not a board or a commission. There is no commission anywhere, there is no board anywhere, that does things affirmatively unless it is dominated by one man, and the only benefit from the other members of that body is in their advisory capacity.—Frank O. Lowden.

## STIMULANTS, DEPRESSANTS, HUMOR

Permit me to congratulate you and your staff on the excellent arrangement of the material in the California and Western Medicine. The arrangement of articles and the quality of reading matter presented stand out conspicuously in medical journal composition. As I look over the Journal (October issue) this morning its very high quality prompts me to send you this note of appreciation and congratulation.—E. C., Los Angeles.

I am returning Dr. Blank's paper on backache with a brief discussion which I trust will not prove too critical. It's a subject in which I am particularly interested, and I am glad to have had the opportunity to discuss the paper.—L. L., San Francisco.

Doctor—Well, Thomas, how are you?  
Thomas—I be better than I was, sir, but I hain't as well as I was before I was as bad as I be now.—Exchange.

Enclosed you will find Dr. ———'s paper, together with a brief discussion. I wish to thank you for this opportunity and shall be glad to render service along this line within my range as a general practitioner.—E. B., Dinuba.

Fundamental educational medical facts should be taught to the public if they are to think logically and reach logical conclusions. We are fortunate in having an editor who has the ability, the knowledge and the courage to write these splendid editorials. While they do the Medical Society doctors a great deal of good, they should be sent also to the public. These are vital facts that the public should know. We read enough against the subject in almost any popular magazine we care to pick up. These editorials are indeed tragically true.—C. L. C., Redlands.

I wish to thank you and to express my appreciation for your reference of Dr. Blank's paper to me for discussion. I returned only last night from the East, so I am unfortunately a day late in returning to you the manuscript and the discussion; however, that is not bad for a doctor.—G. W. J., Santa Barbara.

Business Man to Colored Janitor—Sambo, if you'll take this prescription down to the drug store and get a quart of Scotch, I'll give you a drink. . . . What! Aren't you gone yet?

Sambo—Boss, I'se back!

I wish to thank you for allowing me a place on the discussion of Dr. Blank's very valuable paper. If my little contribution meets with your approval I will be glad to come again some time.—E. M. McK., Los Angeles.

Dear Editor—Hope you haven't overlooked Gests' article in the October Atlantic Monthly. I think you will enjoy it, especially the paragraph which has to do with the "professional uplifter."—H. H. J., San Francisco.

We greatly appreciate your recent letter and are confident that our advertising in the California and Western Medicine will bring us the results which we naturally anticipate.—Hoffmann-La Roche Chemical Works.

**Changes in the Placenta Due to Syphilis**—"Obstetricians and syphilologists are unanimous in admitting that syphilis produces certain changes in the placenta which are characteristic," says Joseph S. Lawrence (Venereal Disease Information, U. S. P. H. S.). "The changes apparent on inspection are: 1. Size: The normal placenta equals about one-sixth the weight of the fetus, while a syphilitic placenta may equal one-fourth, one-third, or even one-half its weight. 2. Thickness: The thickness of a normal placenta is about one inch, but may vary inversely to its area; the syphilitic placenta will be noticeable by its abnormal thickness. 3. Color: The syphilitic placenta has a dull gray appearance. 4. Consistency: Soft and friable. 5. Blood vessels: Enlarged, thickened vessels over the surface of the placenta and cord. The changes are even more characteristic when examined with the microscope. The thickness, it will be seen, is due to enlargement of the villi, and the gray color to the almost total absence of blood vessels from the villi. The destruction of the blood vessels may account partly for the death of the fetus. All of the changes are most marked in the placentas of stillbirths. The presence in the placenta of any of the changes described should suggest to the physician the possibility of congenital syphilis, but their absence must not be taken as proof that syphilis cannot be present. The relation of time of infection to time of impregnation will have some bearing upon the extent of the change. If infection occurs when gestation is well advanced the placenta may not be infected, but if impregnation occurs during the florid stage or in the tertiary stage the placenta is likely to be extensively involved.